



WORCESTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

Worcester County is the easternmost county on Maryland's Eastern Shore and the only one bordering the Atlantic Ocean. The economy of the county is, to a large percent, dependent upon the agriculture industry. The county covers an area of 302,879 acres of which 37 percent or 111,835 acres is classified as farmland. By far the greatest contributor to agriculture is the poultry industry. Worcester county accounts for about 20 percent of the broiler and other meat type chickens sold in the state.

Worcester County is one of the youngest counties in the state, but it does have quite a few historical locations within its boundaries, one of which is the Nassawango Iron Furnace, located just west of Snow Hill.

The Pocomoke River, which has been officially identified as a "scenic river", winds its way through the county and is bordered by Bald Cypress Swamps, the northernmost cypress swamp along the Atlantic coast.

The county also can claim one of the most important summer resort areas on the east coast with Ocean City bordering the Atlantic Ocean. With the wide usage of the resort, population increases greatly during the summer months.

WORCESTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Crop	Year	Unit	Acreage Harvested	Average Yield	Total Production
Corn for Grain	1997	Bu.	37,000	127.9	4,733,000
	1998		35,100	100.5	3,528,400
	1999		32,500	109.2	3,549,800
Corn for Silage	1997	Tons.	*	*	*
	1998		*	*	*
	1999		*	*	*
Soybeans	1997	Bu.	41,000	30.6	1,255,700
	1998		40,800	33.1	1,349,000
	1999		41,700	34.2	1,427,800
Wheat	1997	Bu.	11,500	69.6	800,000
	1998		12,300	48.7	599,000
	1999		12,300	56.8	698,900
Hay	1997	Tons.	900	3.8	3,400
	1998		1,100	2.7	3,000
	1999		1,100	3.0	3,300
Barley	1997	Bu.	*	*	*
	1998		*	*	*
	1999		*	*	*

Crop Production Rank among MD. Counties, 1999				Livestock Inventories Rank among MD. Counties, 1997 ¹	
Corn	2	Oats	³	Cattle	21
Wheat	7	Barley	³	Hogs	5
Hay	20	Soybeans	4	Sheep	21
				Milk Production	³

WORCESTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Farm Numbers & Size ¹		1987	1992	1997
Number of Farms		631	474	415
Average Size (acres)		196	227	269
Land in Farms (acres)		123,406	107,519	111,835
Livestock (Number on Farms) ¹		1987	1992	1997
Cattle Inventory	Jan. 1	2,642	2,059	1,762
Hog Inventory	Dec. 1	28,172	30,133	6,094
Sheep Inventory	Jan. 1	16	²	42
Value of Sales ¹		1987	1992	1997
All Products		122,048	131,302	147,553
Crops		15,902	18,920	24,492
Livestock, Poultry and Poultry Products		106,147	112,382	123,060

¹ Source: Census of Agriculture, NASS.

² Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

³ Unranked - Data not published.

⁴ Revised.

* Acreage too small to publish.

MONTHLY WEATHER DATA - 1999

MONTH	AVERAGE TEMP. (F)	NORMAL 1961-1990	TOTAL RAINFALL (INCHES)	NORMAL 1961-1990
January	41.4	35.2	4.71	3.80
February	40.6	37.3	2.30	3.61
March	43.4	45.6	6.37	4.30
April	55.9	53.9	3.16	3.21
May	64.3	63.5	1.31	3.52
June	72.2	71.9	1.35	3.43
July	79.5	75.8	2.90	4.10
August	76.8	74.7	4.15	5.37
September	70.5	68.7	7.80	3.29
October	57.8	57.9	4.76	3.24
November	53.1	49.1	1.66	3.22
December	42.9	39.8	2.49	3.44
Annual	58.2	56.1	42.96	44.53

Number frost free days for 1999 198

Normal frost free days 1951-1980 186 *(1961-1990 Not available)*

Highest temperature 07-06-99 101

Lowest temperature 01-06-99 8

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Compiled by the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service
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